

projects. There can be little doubt that several generations of education for parenthood may be necessary before a sufficiently strong feeling of racial responsibility will have developed to supply the necessary control. The Eugenist does not postulate the ideal man, nor does Miss Key postulate the ideal marriage form. As the Eugenist works from the general principle that, as "like tends to beget like" it is necessary to ensure that the better elements in the community propagate their kind, so Miss Key demands that "society must be so adjusted as to make the happiness of the individual subserve the betterment of the race," and asserts that the one thing necessary is "to make ever greater demands upon the men and women who take to themselves the right to give humanity new beings."

Mental Deficiency. London. Adlard and Son; 1912; price 1s. net; pp. 93.

THIS reprint from the "Journal of Mental Science" consists chiefly of Dr. Hyslop's account of the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Bill, together with the discussion thereon which took place before the Medical Psychological Association. It also contains other papers and reports on the same subject. It is of interest to note that the general trend of professional and expert opinion is in favour of the measure, and it is greatly to be regretted that it has not been proceeded with.

A. F. T.

Isaacson, EDWARD. *The Malthusian Limit.* London. Methuen and Co.; 1912; price 3s. 6d.; pp. xxvii. + 215.

IN the introduction to this book the author says, "I have simply taken up what seems to be an actual tendency in the normal course of evolution, and thought it out to the logical extreme. It has thrown much light for me upon many of the puzzling questions of the day, and I hope it may do the same for others." The italics are mine, and serve to point out the fallacy underlying the whole argument of the book, which is a study of the conditions and possibilities of a fully peopled earth. This condition of a teeming universe will take nobody knows how long in coming, the time must be counted at least in centuries. But the author supposes its accomplishment, and proceeds to discuss *certain puzzling questions of the present day*, among them women suffrage, the land, socialism, etc. But will these problems remain in the fully peopled earth? The universe having gone through the cataclysmic changes necessary in reaching that state will have left these problems far behind, or find it necessary to study them from a totally different aspect.

The book is well written, and deals with a subject of living interest to all thinkers since Malthus made it current coin; but whether it will be helpful to the eugenist is another matter.

E. CLARKE.

Ashley, ANNIE. *Birmingham Studies in Social Economics; III., The Social Policy of Bismarck.* London. Longmans, Green, and Co.; 1912; price 2s. net; pp. 95.

IN this sane and interesting study Miss Ashley traces the growth of "State Socialism" and the Historical School in Germany, their association with Conservatism and influence on Bismarck, and his eventual concentration upon insurance legislation. The comparison of the English and German systems is probably matter less familiar to our readers, and here Miss Ashley is all too brief: we miss especially some account of the financial basis of the three great German Acts. Some German errors we have been able to avoid such as separate administrations for the invalidity and sickness insurances, and the class distinctions emphasised by benefits varying with wages. Our sickness insurance is more extensive than Bismarck's, and our benefits better; we may hope that our system will be more popular, as we have left more room for individual initiative in administration than the bureaucratic Germans.